

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (a) to (d) [(e)] below:
  - (a) a polynucleotide comprising a protein-coding region of the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1;
  - (b) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2;
  - ~~(e) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2 in which one or more amino acids are replaced, deleted, inserted, and/or added at positions other than 27 to 213, wherein the polynucleotide comprises an activity of a blood cell growth and differentiation factor;~~
  - ~~(c) [(d)] a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to positions 27 to 213 of SEQ ID NO: 2 positions 27 to 213, wherein said polynucleotide comprises comprising the nucleotide sequence according to positions 58 to 696 of SEQ ID NO: 1 positions 58 to 696 and wherein the peptide is a blood cell growth and differentiation factor; and~~
  - ~~(d) [(e)] a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to positions 27 to 213 of SEQ ID NO: 2 positions 27 to 213 and wherein the peptide is a blood cell growth and differentiation factor.~~

2 – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A vector into which the polynucleotide according to claim 1 is inserted.
5. (Previously Presented) An isolated transformant comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a protein comprising cultivating the transformant according to claim 5, under conditions sufficient for the production of the protein, and collecting the protein from the culture. expression products.

7 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An isolated transformant comprising the vector according to claim 4.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a protein comprising cultivating the transformant according to claim 19, under conditions sufficient for the production of the protein, and collecting expression products the protein from the culture.

21. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2.

22. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence according to positions 27 to 213 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and wherein the isolated protein is a blood cell growth and differentiation factor.

25. (New) A vector into which the polynucleotide according to claim 21 is inserted.

26. (New) An isolated transformant comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 21.